



15 SO. FIRST ST. • GENEVA, ILLINOIS 60134

VOICE: (708) 232-4739 FAX: (708) 232-7711

BATAVIA

9-1-1

GENEVA

Emergency Phone

Number for Police

Fire and Ambulance Service

ST. CHARLES

JERALD R. BLECK, DIRECTOR

SERVING THE TRI-CITY AREA

May 27, 1993

Ms. Donna R. Searcy, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W. Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

JUN - 2 1993

RECEIVED

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION JUN 01 1993
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FCC MAIL ROOM

RE: PR Docket No. 92-235

Dear Ms. Searcy:

The Tri-Com Communication System is a multijurisdictional, combined, public safety (9-1-1) emergency communication system for the cities of St. Charles, Geneva, Batavia, Illinois and their fire protection districts. It is an intergovernmental joint powers cooperative established under State of Illinois Statutes. Since 1976 Tri-Com has been answering and dispatching police, fire, and emergency medical service calls for this geographical area which includes a population of approximately 75,000 and land area of 100 square miles. This area is made up of both suburban and rural environments and is located approximately 40 miles west of Chicago, Illinois. Tri-Com operates for a total of seven police, fire, and EMS agencies using a total four VHF and two UHF frequencies. Jointly we own and operate 4 base

We applaud The Commission for taking steps to bring about a reorganized, more efficient use of our radio frequencies. We do have just a few concerns that we would like to express: they are the cost, the timing of the migration, and the use of the channels.

With the number of radios that we have, the cost of replacement is going to be tremendous. The only source of revenue that we have are the tax funds we collect from the taxpayers of our communities. Over the past 17 years of operation we have budgeted for radio replacement in small intervals so as not to have the major expense of replacing all our equipment at one time. It would be our concern that enough time be given to the local governments to fund this project, and that technology be worked in such a way that a period be established where older radios and newer radios could operate simultaneously. Within a period of 10-15 years, radios are all normally retired from service, so using this as a time frame for refarming implementation would have a far less impact financially than if we had to replace all our existing equipment at once. If this had to be completed sooner, our suggestion we would be to establish specific federal grants to assist the local governments (such as in the days of LEAA) to fund the new equipment, but there too, the source of revenue is still coming from the taxpayers.

The other concern we have with this proposal is plan for the issuing of the new channels. We believe for efficiency and

We support the continued use of APCO and IMSA to coordinate frequencies for public safety users. We believe the system that is already in place (which works with frequency coordinators in the given area of the applicant with a single point of contact to The Commission) is the best way to allow for responsible